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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 48, 748

fairness, and we end up advantaging one or advantaging the other, and we keep coming up with dueling bills. I would like to see more of these issues dealt with by the Public Service Commission, where there is more expertise, where they understand the issues in a different way, and where they deal with them day in and day out on a regular basis. So I'm going to support the motion to recommit. I will also support any motion to recommit LB 48. And hopefully, the committee can work more closely with the Public Service Commission, and the Public Service Commission can deal more directly with these issues. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Erdman.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Erdman, did you wish to use the...he waives his time. Next speaker, Senator Burling, followed by Senator Engel.

SENATOR BURLING: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Philosophically, I believe that public policy should encourage a healthy business climate and investments, while protecting public interest. The question here today that I hear debated is, how do we as a Legislature, through public policy, allow municipal utility districts to serve the urban citizens of their area, and at the same time encourage private investor-owned companies to invest in the state of Nebraska, which is terribly important? I believe there's no need for the Public Service Commission to have any oversight regarding controlling how a public provider of natural gas conducts their business, because they're already under an elected board of directors. But boundaries do work, and provide some order. And I believe that the Public Service Commission should be involved in territorial mapping, so that everyone knows ahead of time what the territories are and how to invest. Now, I would welcome correction by Senator Landis or Senator Bourne, either one, if I'm wrong, but in my opinion, neither one of these bills changes the fact that, in the event of annexation, the two companies involved still need to negotiate value of property in question. So I'm listening to the debate. It's been interesting. We're all kind of wanting to go the same direction, but take a different road to get there. And I support the motion to recommit. I yield the rest of my time to Senator Friend, if he would like it.